

# INTRODUCTION

The Northern Bonneville Shoreline Trail (NBST) Master Plan (Master Plan) document is designed to provide a foundation for foothill communities in Box Elder and Cache Counties to use in moving forward to planning and developing a northern extension of the Wasatch Front's most popular public recreation amenity. The Master Plan presents a viable strategy for creating nine contiguous segments of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST), that together will:

- ❖ more than double the length of the BST as originally envisioned,
- ❖ allow for more equestrian use than the original or "southern" portion of the BST,
- ❖ meet the values of the BST in terms of public land access preservation and delineate developed community boundaries below the foothills along most of its length.

The Master Plan has benefitted from extensive contributions by area trail users, trail builders, public officials, resource organizations, and interested residents. As this participation shifts from the Master Plan to the segment planning level in the coming years, rapid implementation of the BST on the ground is a reasonable expectation. More than adequate interest, expertise, and opportunity exists for this impressive community amenity that will benefit residents and visitors for many generations to come.

Specifically, to be an effective resource for communities and residents, this Master Plan must meet the following objectives, as adopted by the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG):

1. Demonstrate the viability of an extensive multi-use valley-foothill interface trail,
2. Describe practical alternatives, planning issues, and implementation opportunities for discrete segments of the trail,
3. Produce compelling documentation for fund raising from public and private sources,
4. Mobilize community support for trail implementation.

Adopting this Master Plan indicates that BRAG believes that Objective's 1-3 have been met. While preliminary indications are encouraging, the next several years will show whether if community interest has been sustained and mobilization of support envisioned in Objective 4 has indeed been adequate.



# Goals for the Northern Bonneville Shoreline Trail (NBST)

It is recommended that communities interested in developing NBST segments adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposed by the BST Coalition and then actively participate in the BST Coalition. The BST Coalition, a cooperative group of representatives of all communities hosting a segment of the BST, has set guidance for the BST and offers expertise and problem solving support to participating communities. Adherence to the guidance in this MOU has helped participating communities create Utah's most important and well known shared recreation facility. The following criteria, laid out in the MOU, have been accepted by over 98 percent of Box Elder and Cache County residents that participated in the Master Plan development process.

1. The trail will be built on or near the foothill bench generally considered to be the eastern shoreline of ancient Lake Bonneville.
2. The purpose of the trail is to provide a place where walkers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians can experience their recreational pursuits at a distance from automobiles that is both safe and aesthetically pleasing.
3. The trail will provide access to public lands and the resources associated with those lands.
4. The trail will be for nonmotorized use only. Walkers, runners, cross-country skiers, bicyclists, snowshoers, and horseback riders are identified as potential users, although all segments may not be appropriate for all of these uses.
5. The trail will be separate from the developed urban area, but trailheads will provide access that is convenient for residents of urbanized areas.
6. The trail should be designed to provide access and rapid deployment of fire fighting and other emergency resources to the urban/foothills interface, where feasible.
7. The trail will contribute to the preservation of aesthetic, wildlife, historic, and educational values of the area.

Interpreting these BST-wide criteria, it is recommended that the following goal statements be adopted by BRAG and used to guide the individual segment planning and implementation efforts of communities and the two counties covered under this Master Plan.

1. Develop a safe and enjoyable trail that accommodates multiple nonmotorized trail users.
2. Provide public access to the foothills and mountains.
3. Link existing and proposed trails to create a regional nonmotorized trail system in northern Utah.



4. Provide environmental education opportunity focusing on foothill ecology and ancient Lake Bonneville geology.
5. Involve residents in trail planning, construction, and maintenance.
6. Link the northern segment to the BST along the Wasatch Mountains in Weber County.
7. Connect with local and regional recreational facilities.
8. Develop a firebreak to help protect residential and mountain areas from wildfire.
9. Provide unprecedented opportunities for horseback riding in foothill areas.

## Process

The Master Plan process was conducted during the period of September 2001 and February 2002, and is recommended for immediate adoption by BRAG to guide NBST planning and construction efforts beginning in Spring 2002. It is recommended that a formal evaluation of Trail development progress and status report be conducted in fall 2007 by an outside contractor with annual monitoring and review activities conducted by BRAG staff.

## How to Use This Master Plan

“Implementation of this trail system and associated amenities lies solely in the hands of the citizens and elected officials...”

This document is intended for use by the cities and counties of Box Elder and Cache County as they undertake their own efforts at trail development. We expect that the document will be useful to public and private users towards that end. This document is packed with resources that should be used by local governments and grass roots citizen committees to direct their efforts in a cost effective and coordinated manner.

The document is made up of four chapters: (1) Infrastructure, Analysis, and Inventory, (2) Northern Bonneville Shoreline Trail Analysis by segment, (3) Trail Design Standards and Costs, and (4) Implementation Tools.

The four chapters are followed by appendices that include maps and detailed resources used in developing the Master Plan and intended for use in local projects.

Implementation of this trail system and associated amenities lies solely in the hands of the citizens and elected officials of each city or county who has jurisdiction over a given trail segment. Some communities

have progressed beyond certain aspects of this document while others will be greatly aided in their efforts through the use of the Master Plan. Each community can judge for itself how to best use the elements of this document and at what pace in which to do so. At the very least this master plan can be used as a coordinating guide to catalyze future trail development and improvement. Each community and the region as a whole should monitor the status of the NBST annually and make a public report of ongoing progress.

This project can, if properly implemented, become one of the great legacies we can leave to this region and its inhabitants. If an unobstructed trail system is completed it would be truly unique and valuable asset to all the people of northern Utah.

